

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Despite whatever corporate interest Sinclair may have in the upcoming election, the fact that they use public airwaves obligates them under Federal law to stay politically neutral and avoid electioneering. They are obviously attempting to do just this, and, if they go through with it, they deserve to be prosecuted and lose all airwave rights they currently possess.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.